

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A synthetic resin emulsion comprising polymer particles having a ~~core/shell~~core and shell structure, wherein said shell comprises a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid and a hydrophilic comonomer,

said core comprises a copolymer of a monomer mixture, wherein said monomer mixture includes ~~comprising~~ a radically polymerizable main monomer and a radically polymerizable functional monomer, and ~~said wherein the~~ monomers constituting the monomer mixture are selected so that the glass transition point (T_g) of the copolymer of said core ~~produced by polymerization~~ is -20°C or below, and

wherein said synthetic resin emulsion has been is produced by polymerizing said unsaturated carboxylic acid and said hydrophilic comonomer in an aqueous medium to form an aqueous copolymer solution, adding said monomer mixture for core formation and a pH adjustor to ~~an said~~ aqueous copolymer solution, ~~which has not been~~wherein said aqueous copolymer solution is not neutralized, to form a reaction mixture and polymerizing the reaction mixture. ~~, produced by polymerizing the unsaturated carboxylic acid and the hydrophilic comonomer in an aqueous medium, and allowing a polymerization reaction to proceed.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 1, for use as a main component of an easily~~A water-swellable pressure-sensitive adhesive composition comprising said synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 1 or 2, ~~wherein the polymerization reaction of the monomer mixture conducted in the aqueous copolymer solution is~~ wherein said polymerizing step further comprises an emulsion polymerization reaction.

4. (Currently Amended) The synthetic resin emulsion according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein said monomer mixture is added as an emulsion monomer solution to ~~the said~~ aqueous ~~polymer~~copolymer solution.

5. (Currently Amended) The synthetic resin emulsion according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, which has~~claim 1, wherein said synthetic resin emulsion has a pH value of 7 or less.

6. (Currently Amended) The synthetic resin emulsion according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein said unsaturated carboxylic acid is acrylic acid and ~~the said~~ hydrophilic comonomer is (meth)acrylic acid hydroxy ester.

7. (Currently Amended) The synthetic resin emulsion according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein said pH adjustor is at least one ~~member compound~~ selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts, ammonia, and amine.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An easily~~The water-swellaable pressure-sensitive adhesive composition ~~comprising, as as claimed in claim 2, wherein said synthetic resin emulsion is a main component, the synthetic resin emulsion according to any one of claims 1 to 7.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet comprising a substrate sheet and ~~the easily~~said water-swellaable pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim ~~8-2~~2 coated onto ~~the a~~ surface of ~~the said~~ substrate sheet.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a synthetic resin emulsion comprising polymer particles having a ~~core/shell~~core and shell structure, said shell ~~comprising including~~ a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid and a hydrophilic comonomer, said core comprising a copolymer of a monomer mixture

~~comprising including~~ a radically polymerizable main monomer and a radically polymerizable functional monomer, said process comprising the steps of:

providing an unsaturated carboxylic acid and a hydrophilic comonomer;

~~polymerizing them~~ said unsaturated carboxylic acid and a hydrophilic comonomer in an aqueous medium to ~~prepare form~~ an aqueous copolymer solution; and

adding said monomer mixture for core formation and a pH adjustor to the aqueous copolymer solution without ~~the neutralization of the aqueous copolymer solution to form a reaction mixture~~, ~~allowing an emulsion polymerization emulsion polymerizing the reaction to form~~ proceed to prepare a synthetic resin emulsion, wherein said monomer mixture comprising monomers selected so that the glass transition point (Tg) of the copolymer produced by polymerization is -20°C or below.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for producing a synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 10, wherein, ~~in adding the adding step further comprises adding the monomer mixture to the aqueous polymer solution, the monomer mixture is added as an emulsion monomer solution prepared with the aid of an emulsifier.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A bonding method comprising the step of bonding a substrate and ~~a an adherend of interest with the aid of the synthetic resin emulsion according to any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for bonding a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, comprising the steps of:

coating the ~~easily~~ water-swellaable pressure-sensitive adhesive composition according to claim ~~8-2~~ 2 onto ~~the a~~ surface of a substrate sheet to form ~~the a~~ pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet; and

applying ~~the said~~ pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet to ~~a an adherend of interest.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A method for separating a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, comprising the steps of:

applying water to a said pressure-sensitive adhesive composition-coated ~~part in the of~~ said pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 9 ~~applied to a~~
~~adherend of interest to swell the~~ said pressure-sensitive adhesive composition; and

separating the pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, ~~in which the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition has been swollen,~~ from the adherend.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the synthetic resin emulsion according to any one of claims 1 to 7, as a~~ A method for making a pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising the step of adding a synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 1 to the pressure sensitive adhesive during formation of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

16. (New) A synthetic resin emulsion comprising polymer particles having a core and shell structure, wherein

said shell comprises a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid and a hydrophilic comonomer,

said core comprises a copolymer of a monomer mixture, wherein said monomer mixture includes a radically polymerizable main monomer and a radically polymerizable functional monomer, and wherein the monomers constituting the monomer mixture are selected so that the glass transition point (T_g) of the copolymer of said core is -20°C or below.

17. (New) A water swellable pressure-sensitive adhesive composition comprising said synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 16.

18. (New) The synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 16, wherein said synthetic resin emulsion has a pH of 7 or less.

19. (New) The synthetic resin emulsion according to claim 16, wherein said unsaturated carboxylic acid is acrylic acid and said hydrophilic comonomer is (meth)acrylic acid hydroxy ester.

20. (New) A synthetic resin emulsion produced in accordance with the process of claim 1.